

that a greater effort be made throughout the brotherhood to teach and explain our position on this subject.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." II Cor. 13:14.

Vernalis, Cal.

INFLUENCE

"They had been with Jesus."—Acts 4:13. Sermon by Louis S. Bauman.

Men speak of powers. Powers of the air, powers of the earth, powers of hell, powers of heaven, powers natural, powers artificial. But of all the powers that be, there is one the most powerful, the most irresistible. It has not the roar of the avalanche, yet it is stronger than the avalanche. It has not the swiftness of the lightning, yet penetrates deeper than the lightning. Influence! Influence!! What is it? As we think of it, it is a something that flows into you from a million sources, making you good or making you bad, making you an angel of heaven or making you an angel of hell. It is an inflow of something and this something is always a virtue or a vice. If it brings you nearer to God, it is a virtue. If not, it is a vice.

When men come in contact with Jesus Christ there is invariably a flow of virtue from Him. When men come in contact with satan, there is invariably a flow of vice from him. When the blessed Christ was on his way to the home of Jairus, a poor sick woman in need of something this earth could not give, came to the blessed Jesus, and as the tip of her finger came in contact with His garments, she was filled with virtue divine which supplied her need. And Oh, men and women, if you will just keep in contact with the blessed Christ, you will find the virtue to supply every human need. You will find peace when tossing on the angry billows of life. You will find joy when the clouds above you are dark and fearful. You will find consolation when the flash of death hurls above you. Keep close to Jesus if you want "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

Take a man and stand him on a piece of glass and you can charge and surcharge him with electricity and not a spark escapes. As you stand in contact with the earth, take hold of his hand and in a flash the charge will pass from him through you to the earth. If men wish to be pure and holy, charged and surcharged with all the divine attributes of God, they must sever all connection with this earth. They cannot connect themselves with vice and maintain Christian purity. The only way, beloved, for us to keep pure and holy is to stand entirely on the blessed Christ and sever at once and forever all connection with sin,

As coming in contact with Jesus will make you virtuous, or coming in contact with satan will make you vicious, just so coming in contact with any person on this earth will either make you better or make you worse. If they are good they will make an impression on you for good. If they are evil they will make an impression on you for evil. Hence, influence is something that each and every one of you possess. Mark my word, no person—I care not how poor, how unknown, how insignificant—no man or woman, no, not even the babe of a day has ever been born into this world but who has left or will leave the world better or worse for having been in it. I say to you, you cannot sail your craft on the sea of life without changing its waters as they would not have been changed had you not sailed. You cannot tread the path of life without leaving footprints behind you. Live how you will, live when you will, live where you will and you will cast your influence. I ask you then, when you wrap the shroud of death about you are you going to leave this world better or worse for your having lived in it.

You paint pictures, pictures fade. You carve on marble, marble crumbles. You build Babylons, Babylons sink beneath the dust of the ages. But you put the least touch upon an immortal soul—it will not, can not perish. And O, to think, that every day of your life, you are making impressions, for better or for worse, for weal or for woe, on the immortals about you. That every day of your life casts an influence that will live as the eternal ages themselves go flying into the past. Dear friend, every day you live sees something done as eternal as God. Are you a beggar by the wayside or a monarch on his throne? Are you the drunkard in the gutter, or the priest in the sanctuary, it matters not, you are leaving your mark in the world, you are not only building for eternity for yourself, but you are building for others. O, when I think that thousands and thousands are going to enter eternity differently than if I had not lived, that thousands and thousands are going to stand before the judgment bar of God with character that I helped form,—I am weighed down with a sense of my responsibility before God, and pray that my influence may be for the better. If not, better for me had I never been born.

Dear Christians, there is not one among you, but who if you were brought to realize the power of your influence upon others, and your responsibility for the effects of your influence upon others—there is not one but who would be more careful of the things you do and say—not one but who would strive to become more like Jesus.

Rev. John Newton converted Claudius Buchanan and Claudius Buchanan wrote "The Star in the East," and "The Star

in the East" made Adoniram Judson missionary to India, and now the millions of India are one by one turning their faces from their heathen gods and looking away to the unseen Savior in whom you and I rejoice today. John Newton also converted Thomas Scott and Thomas Scott brought Cowper to the Savior, and Cowper influenced Wilberforce to accept Christianity. And Wilberforce wrote a book called "A Practical View of Christianity." This book converted Leigh Richmond, who wrote, "The Dairyman's Daughter," and that book has saved its thousands. There is the influence of one man, Rev. John Newton. God alone knows where the influence of his life will end, if end it can. But this same John Newton was one day a dissipated sailor, and while on board the "Harwick," before he gave his life to God, he was the means of corrupting the life of a pure young man—turning him from a blessed faith to base infidelity. After he became a minister of God, he met this same young man, and plead with him to reform, but he replied that Newton first made him an infidel, and he could not change him now. The young man gave way to every wicked passion, and the excesses soon threw him into a fever and ere long he launched out into everlasting darkness and despair, with no Savior and no God. Newton died safe in the arms of Jesus, leaving behind him a powerful influence for good, but he would have given the world to have wiped out the evil influence of his youth—but no! it too was eternal as the other.

Not long ago, I held a meeting and an old man sixty years of age came forward and gave his heart to God. I have thought about it since forty-five years of influence for sin, influence against God, has gone out from that man, moving onward and onward and onward with its mighty force forever and forever. Forty-five years of sin, every day of which sent out its irresistible influence. Hundreds of souls over which he cast those years of influence have come to their account. Hundreds of souls have fallen under his influence that he will never meet again in this world. What ghosts must haunt him as memory reverts to the past. Yes, God is love, Jesus is precious. God is merciful, Jesus is forgiving. God can wipe away all sin out of his heart, but eternity is too short to overthrow that forty-five years of influence against God. God can wipe out forty-five years of sin from his heart, but God can not wipe out forty-five years of influence in the world. My friend, some day you believe you are going to be saved, be washed whiter than the snow in the blood of the Lamb. Yes there may be time yet for you to have your sins forgiven, but let me tell you, eternity itself will be too short for you to reclaim the influence you are wielding against God now.